

Chalkboard is the newsletter of the Oregon Council of Teachers of English, an organization that has existed for over 100 years to support teachers of English and the language arts in Oregon elementary and secondary schools, community colleges and universities.



Chalkboard is our way of keeping our many members and friends informed about OCTE activities, programs of the National Council of Teachers of English, conferences and learning opportunities for students, research tidbits, book recommendations, and more.

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Peter Thacker, Co-Editor  
Lynette Gottlieb, Co-Editor

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## Meet Lynette Gottlieb, Our New Chalkboard Co-Editor

I want to welcome an innovative, enthusiastic English teacher and writer, Lynette Gottlieb, as she joins me as co-editor of *Chalkboard*. The many articles that Lynette has written for Oregon English Journal and the workshops she has presented at OCTE conferences have delighted me. Teaching adolescents was not Lynette's first career. She started as an academic teaching at the collegiate level, then found her calling at Ashbrook Independent School in Corvallis. Her first published piece in *OEJ* (Volume 32 #2, Fall 2010) spoke of how she sought out mentors to build a classroom that worked. Her latter writings show us a master teacher who consistently

builds engaging activities that speak to students, who, in turn, demonstrate over and over their own prowess as creative readers, writers, and thinkers. Lynette also is quite a techie, which I welcome given my antiquated pick-and-peck approach to newsletter publishing.

Have you done an E/LA activity that others might want to emulate? Have you read a great novel or professional book? Have your students written poems, essays, or book reviews that deserve to be seen? Let Lynette or me know. We would love to see you in print!

Peter Thacker

## Fall 2017 Conference Retrospective

I love that sensation when I leave a conference and my brain is tingling with new ideas and strategies that I can utilize the very next day in my classroom. I hope that all of our participants at the OCTE Fall Conference in Wilsonville shared in this sensation with me. I truly believe that attending OCTE Conferences is time well spent and that our participants walk away energized and fortified in their professions. Coming together at OCTE Conferences not only benefits us individually, but it benefits our entire network of English Teachers across Oregon. Investing your own time and resources into spending a Saturday at a conference shows true dedication and passion for your profession. I applaud all of you who attended our Fall Conference, and I encourage those of you who have not yet attended an OCTE Conference to join us in gaining new insights that will benefit yourself, your students, and your colleagues. Our Spring Conference will be held at Ashland High School on April 14th and it will be an amazing program. Please join us for a day of sharing knowledge and networking and then spend the rest of the weekend enjoying Shakespeare plays and the beautiful city of Ashland. I look forward to seeing you there!

Mariko Walsh  
OCTE President-Elect

### **The Danger of a Single Story, presented by Desiree Kiesel** **by Lynette Gottlieb, Ashbrook Independent School**

I cannot do adequate justice here to Desiree's two-part presentation, which reflected current best practices in our ELA classrooms, both echoing and broadening from the types of talks I chose to attend at the NCTE in Atlanta, 2017. Her presentation title, "The Danger of a Single Story," references a TED Talk given by Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche in 2009, in which she discusses finding her authentic cultural voice and warns that a single story about a person, culture, or country can lead to critical misunderstandings. This ties directly to inherent lessons we teach in ELA classrooms: points of view, voice, reliability of the narrators, bias, figurative language, rhetoric, and so much more. Desiree asserted that we must do the work to put our students' realities, backgrounds, and goals at the forefront of our teaching. She explained our aim should be to have a classroom that is culturally *responsive*, not merely culturally relevant, to our students.

As educators we need to know our students deeply, understand their cultures, understand our own culture (where we are coming from both literally and figuratively), and adapt to the cultural needs of our students. We learned about four gaps in the achievement of our youth: the much-discussed achievement gap, which is often fed by the opportunity gap, the belief gap, and the consciousness gap. Desiree evoked Emily Style's concept of mirrors and windows to help us utilize literature to both reflect our students' truths and depict the truths of others, to which they may have never had exposure. With culturally responsive teaching, our students may be feel more visible, may broaden their perspectives, may come to understand that all stories have value (especially those that have been historically underrepresented), and may come to share their own experiences and culture. Desiree gave a powerful presentation that lit my fire (again) to be a culturally responsive teacher.

## Thank You, Dorothy!

### **Dorothy Courtox Retires from OCTE Board** **by Karen Johnson, Twality Middle School**

Long-time OCTE Board member, Dorothy Courtoux, announced her retirement at our Fall Board Meeting. Dorothy joined the board in 2007 and served four years as secretary, after which she became our historian. In 2009 she joined the Oregon Spirit Book Award committee, and in 2013 she agreed to serve as co-chair-a position in which she worked passionately and tirelessly to coordinate dates, meetings, and the many details needed to run the award presentations smoothly.

While Dorothy will continue to contribute to the Oregon Spirit Book Award committee as a reader all of us at OCTE will miss her many generous contributions of time and help. Thank you Dorothy!

## 2018 Spring Conference, April 14, Ashland, Oregon



### All the world's a stage (and a classroom)!

Our keynote speaker will be **Rebecca Clark Carey**,  
Voice and Text Director, Oregon Shakespeare Festival

She will present "Shakespeare Out Loud," in which she will talk about what the rhythms, rhetorical structures, imagery, and emotional logic of the language reveal about the characters --how language reveals the characters' states of mind, emotional lives, and foreshadows their relationships and actions.

Rebecca Clark Carey is head of voice and text at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival where she has been voice and text director for over 40 productions since 2003. She has also been an actor/teacher with the education department, developing and teaching curriculum for student visitors to the festival. Other credits include the Utah Shakespeare Festival, the Guthrie Theater, American Repertory Theater, the Royal National Theatre in London, and the Broadway production of Robert Schenkkan's Tony Award winning *All the Way*. She is the co-author with David Carey of *The Shakespeare Workbook and Video*, *The Verbal Arts Workbook*, and *The Vocal Arts Workbook and DVD*. She received an M.A. in voice studies from the Central School of Speech and Drama in London, an M.F.A. in acting from the University of California at Irvine, and a B.A. in history and literature from Harvard University.

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## Oregon Writing Festival 2018

Saturday, May 5, 2018  
Portland State University

[Go to the Oregon Writing Festival website for more information.](#)

Student Registration Form :  
Available through School District contact only.  
For additional information please contact:

Barbara Wiegele  
bjwiegele@aol.com  
503-723-6275

Rick Hardt  
Festival Chair  
hardtu@pdx.edu



### **Bart King (gr. 4-5)**

writes funny books for kids and immature adults, like *The Pocket Guide to Mischief* and *The Big Book of Girl Stuff*. A longtime teacher, he knows what young readers like and makes readers out of kids.



### **April Henry (gr. 6-8)**

is the New York Times-bestselling author of more than 20 thrillers for teens and adults. She started publishing her stories when she was 12 and is known for researching her novels meticulously to get the details right. Libraries can't keep her books on the shelves! Her books have been made into movies.



### **Fonda Lee (gr. 9-12)**

writes award-winning sci-fi and fantasy for teens. Her books have been finalists for an Andrew Norton Award, the Oregon Book Award, and have been listed among ALA Top 10 and Junior Library Guild selections. *Zeroboxer* won the OCTE Oregon Spirit Book Award. This Canadian-born Portlander holds black belts in karate and kung fu.

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## **English Teacher of the Year Nominations**

### **Oregon Excellence Awards in Teaching the English Language Arts**

To recognize excellence in teaching, the Oregon Council of Teachers of English (OCTE) invites any Oregon school to nominate one outstanding English language arts educator for one of these prestigious annual awards. A strong equal opportunity organization, we welcome nominations from anyone at any level of education—elementary, middle, secondary, two-year college, four-year college or university—but nominations must be limited to one per school.

To be nominated, the educator must have taught at least five years in any Oregon school at any level. In the opinion of the nominator, the educator must have created a particularly noteworthy record in teaching the English language arts. The nominator—with or without the assistance of the candidate—should do the following:

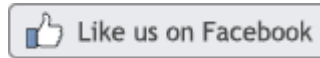
To nominate, [submit an online form](#).

OCTE invites all Oregon teachers to submit completed Nomination Forms and Paragraphs to the OCTE Executive Board for review and selection of annual Finalists. **[Nomination deadline is April 6.](#)**

After receiving nominations, the Council will call on experts to select finalists. Those teachers selected as finalists will be required to submit additional supporting evidence. Finalists and award winners will be recognized at the Fall OCTE conference.

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